

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KINSHA 04748 131958Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 PC-01 OPR-02  
SY-05 A-01 SCS-06 CA-01 EA-10 EB-08 /122 W  
-----098906 132005Z /65

O 131850Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9662  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI IMMEDIATE  
USINT HAVANA IMMEDIATE  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE ECJ4/7-SACM, ECJ2-T IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL BUKAVU

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 4748

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS, MOPS, CG, CASC  
SUBJECT: KOLWEZI ATTACK: MOBUTU BRIEFS AMBASSADORS

REF: KINSHASA 4740 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: AFTERNOON MAY 13 MOBUTU BRIEFED US, CHINESE, FRENCH AND UK CHIEFS OF MISSION ON MILITARY SITUATION IN KOLWEZI. SAID EX-KATANGANS LAUNCHED GROUND ATTACK EARLY SAME DAY FROM ANGOLA VIA ZAMBIA, GAINING CONTROL OF KEY POINTS IN CITY. ALLEGED FAZ COUNTER-ATTACK HAD SUCCEEDED IN REGAINING MOST POINTS EXCEPT AIRPORT, WHICH SHORTLY TO BE ASSAULTED. SAID ATTACK PLAN HATCHED IN HAVANA, COORDINATED IN ALGIERS AND OBVIOUSLY HAD SOVIET AND ANGOLAN SUPPORT. HE SEEMED REASONABLY  
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PAGE 02 KINSHA 04748 131958Z

CONFIDENT AND DID NOT ASK FOR SPECIFIC ASSISTANCE OR INDICATE HE INTENDED TO TAKE MATTER TO UNSC. HIS DESCRIPTION OF FAZ SITUATION AT KOLWEZI IS MORE OPTIMISTIC THAN REPORTS WE ARE RECEIVING FROM OTHER SOURCES. END SUMMARY

2. MOBUTU RETURNED FROM GBADOLITE EARLY AFTERNOON MAY 13 AND CALLED IN US, CHINESE, FRENCH AMBASSADORS AND UK CHARGE AT 1600

HOURS. HE GAVE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF KOLWEZI SITUATION:

3. THREE-FOUR WEEKS AGO GOZ INTELLIGENCE LEARNED OF KATANGAN TROOP MOVEMENTS SOUTH OF SHABA BORDER FROM ANGOLA INTO ZAMBIAN TERRITORY. MOBUTU TWICE SENT SPECIAL EMISSARY TO PRESIDENT KAUNDA ALERTING HIM TO MOVEMENTS; HOWEVER, LATTER TENDED TO DOWNPLAY REPORTS AND EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE NO ATTACK WOULD OCCUR. OTHER GOZ INTELLIGENCE INDICATED PLANS FOR NEW SHABA ATTACK WERE HATCHED IN HAVANA AND DEVELOPED FURTHER IN ALGIERS MEETING BETWEEN KATANGANS AND ZAIRIAN DISSIDENT MOVEMENTS BASED IN EUROPE. ATTACK ORIGINALLY PLANNED FOR MID-JUNE. EARLY THIS WEEK ADDITIONAL INTELLIGENCE INDICATED KATANGAN FORCE OF 150 HAD INFILTRATED ACROSS BORDER FROM ZAMBIA INTO ZAIRE SOUTHWEST OF KOLWEZI, WITH INFORMATION FROM PEASANTS IN AREA INDICATING KATANGAN FORCE ACTUALLY MUCH LARGER.

4. IN VIEW OF DEVELOPING SITUATION, MOBUTU HAD CALLED IN SOVIET CHARGE MAY 12 TO EXPRESS CONCERN. AT SAME TIME MOBUTU MADE ARRANGEMENTS TO CALL IN OTHER REPS OF GOVERNMENTS PERMANENTLY ON UN SECURITY COUNCIL FOLLOWING DAY. MOBUTU HAD INTENDED TO INFORM OAU PRESIDENT BONGO VIA GABONESE EMBASSY HERE, BUT THEIR PRINCIPALS WERE UNAVAILABLE AND CONTACT APPARENTLY NOT MADE.

5. MOBUTU INFORMED OF ATTACK AT KOLWEZI AT 0200 HOURS MAY 13. ATTACK WAS BY GROUND FORCES DRESSED IN CIVILIAN ATTIRE. ATTACKERS USED SMALL ARMS BUT NO CONFIRMATION OF HEAVY WEAPONS. NO KNOWLEDGE OF ENEMY AIRCRAFT INVOLVED. FAZ COMMANDER WITHDREW  
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PAGE 03 KINSHA 04748 131958Z

IMMEDIATELY TO NORTH OF CITY TO TAKE COMMAND OF THREE BATTALIONS FOR COUNTER-ATTACK. IN MEANTIME, KATANGANS TOOK AIRFIELD, DESTROYING THREE OF SIX MACCHI AIRCRAFT ON GROUND. ATTACKERS PENETRATED CITY OVER-RUNNING FAZ HEADQUARTERS AND GECAMINES HOSPITAL. BY MIDDAY, FAZ HAD SUCCEEDED IN RETAKING LATTER TWO FACILITIES AND WAS PREPARING ASSAULT ON AIRPORT. THREE FAZA MIRAGE AIRCRAFT WERE OPERATING OVER CITY. MONITORED MESSAGES BETWEEN KATANGAN HEADQUARTERS AND LUANDA MADE CLEAR CURRENT ATTACK BEING ORCHESTRATED FROM WITHIN ANGOLA.

6. ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER IDZUMBUIR, WHO ALSO ATTENDED MEETING, TOLD ME HE HAD JUST MADE SECOND DEMARCHE TO SOVIET CHARGE SEEKING SOVIETS' AND VIA THEM ANGOLANS' ASSISTANCE IN INDUCING KATANGAN WITHDRAWAL. ACCORDING TO IDZUMBUIR, SOVIET RESPONDED IN GENERALLY CONCILIATORY WAY AND SAID HE WOULD SEEK INFORMATION. (IDZUMBUIR CONTRASTED THIS TO SOVIET POSITION DURING LAST YEAR'S SHABA INVASION THAT THEY WERE IN NO WAY INVOLVED.)

7. MOBUTU SAID NEXT EIGHTEEN HOURS WOULD BE CRITICAL AS FAZ PUSHES FORWARD WITH COUNTER-ATTACK. HE CLAIMED COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN KINSHASA AND FAZ HEADQUARTERS IN KOLWEZI, AS WELL AS WITH GECAMINES, WERE OPERATIONAL. HE INVITED MILITARY ATTACHES OF FOUR

COUNTRIES REPRESENTED TO ATTEND DETAILED BRIEFING AN HOUR  
LATER AT DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE. (ALL ACCEPTED AND BRIEFING  
PRESUMABLY NOW TAKING PLACE.)

8. COMMENT: MOBUTU WAS QUITE RELAXED, SEEMED CONFIDENT. HE MADE  
CLEAR HIS BELIEF THAT SOVIETS/CUBANS WERE BEHIND CURRENT OPER-  
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TIC, OR INDICATE HE PLANNED TO TAKE MATTER TO UN SECURITY COUNCIL.  
HIS INFORMATION ON STATUS OF FAZ'S SITUATION IN KOLWEZI CONTRASTS  
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PAGE 04 KINSHA 04748 131958Z

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MANY UNCONFIRMED AND OFTEN CONFLICTING REPORTS WE ARE RECEIVING, IT  
MAY BE A WHILE YET BEFORE PICTURE BECOMES CLEAR.  
CUTLER

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PAGE 01 KINSHA 04748 141417Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PC-01 MCT-01 HA-05

AID-05 CCO-00 FBOE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03

NSC-05 SP-02 OC-06 OPR-02 PA-01 USSS-00 CA-01

A-01 SCS-06 OMB-01 SS-15 SY-05 TRSE-00 ACDA-12

ARA-10 /145 W

-----101421 141421Z /41

O 141245Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9664

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

473#5/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 1523

USMISSION USNATO  
SEC DEF WASHDC  
DIA WASHDC  
USICA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 4748

DEPT PASS PEACE CORPS

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION DEPT INFO BRUSSELS, PARIS, LONDON,  
USUN NEW YORK, LUSAKA, MOSCOW, LUBUMBASHI, HAVANA, BUKAVU MAY 13  
REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO

QUOTE  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INTERVENTION, AMBASSADORS, BRIEFING MATERIALS, POLITICAL SITUATION, COMBAT OPERATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 KINSHASA 4740  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**SAS ID:** 2699204  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** KOLWEZI ATTACK: MOBUTU BRIEFS AMBASSADORS  
**TAGS:** PINS, MOPS, CASC, CG, US, CH, UK, FR  
**To:** STATE USUN NEW YORK  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/021b969f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014